

(Washington, DC) - **Congressman Wally Herger (R-CA)** joined every Republican Member of the tax writing Ways & Means Committee on a letter to the Chairman of the Committee urging a full review of H.R. 2454, the Democratic "cap and trade" bill, that has been called a big tax increase even by leading Democrats. Recent reports have indicated that Chairman Rangel is considering bypassing the Ways and Means Committee to accommodate the demands of House Speaker Pelosi that the legislation move through Congress without proper review. The full text of the letter can be found

[here](#)

. Herger's comments follow below:

"This legislation being pushed by House Democrat leadership and President Obama would have a devastating effect on our Northern California economy. Put simply, "[cap and trade](#)" is a new national tax on energy consumption, which would be extremely harmful to everyone who uses energy -- from families to small businesses, to family farms and ranches. I oppose increasing taxes on the American people. The Ways & Means Committee has jurisdiction over many aspects of this bill, and the American people deserve a full and transparent committee process so they can see and thoroughly understand exactly what this ill-conceived legislation means for them and for our nation's economy. It's easy to see why Democrats are rushing it through and trying to sidestep full review and debate by the Ways and Means Committee : the American people simply won't stand for a national energy tax."

### **Background:**

The letter invokes a rule of the House that states that three Members of the Committee can submit a written request for a committee review and calls upon the Committee to consider the measure. The rule further specifies that if after three calendar days, the Chairman has failed to schedule such a meeting within seven days, then it can be scheduled by a majority of Committee members.